



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL - 5 2017

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF WATER

Dear Senator Cruz:

Thank you for your letter to Administrator Scott Pruitt of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, dated May 18, 2017, encouraging the Agency to consider revising regulations governing the ocean disposal of dredged material. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to this important issue.

The EPA is seeking public input on meaningful regulatory reform under Executive Order 13777, "Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda". As a part of this process, the EPA Office of Water is evaluating water program regulations to consider for revision, including those in our ocean dumping program. As your letter suggests, we will be looking at options for improving water program regulations to make them more effective, predictable, and consistent to protect public health and the environment, and reducing avoidable burdens on the regulated public.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Denis Borum in the EPA Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at Borum.Denis@epa.gov or (202) 564-4836.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Michael H. Shapiro".

Michael H. Shapiro
Assistant Administrator

